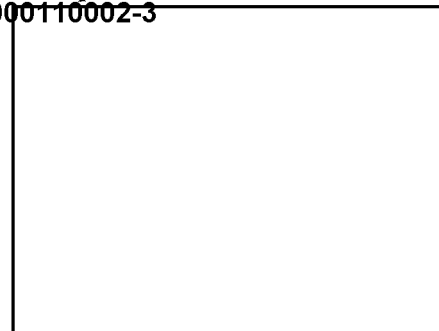




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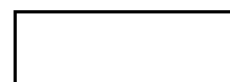


National Intelligence Daily

Friday
19 January 1979

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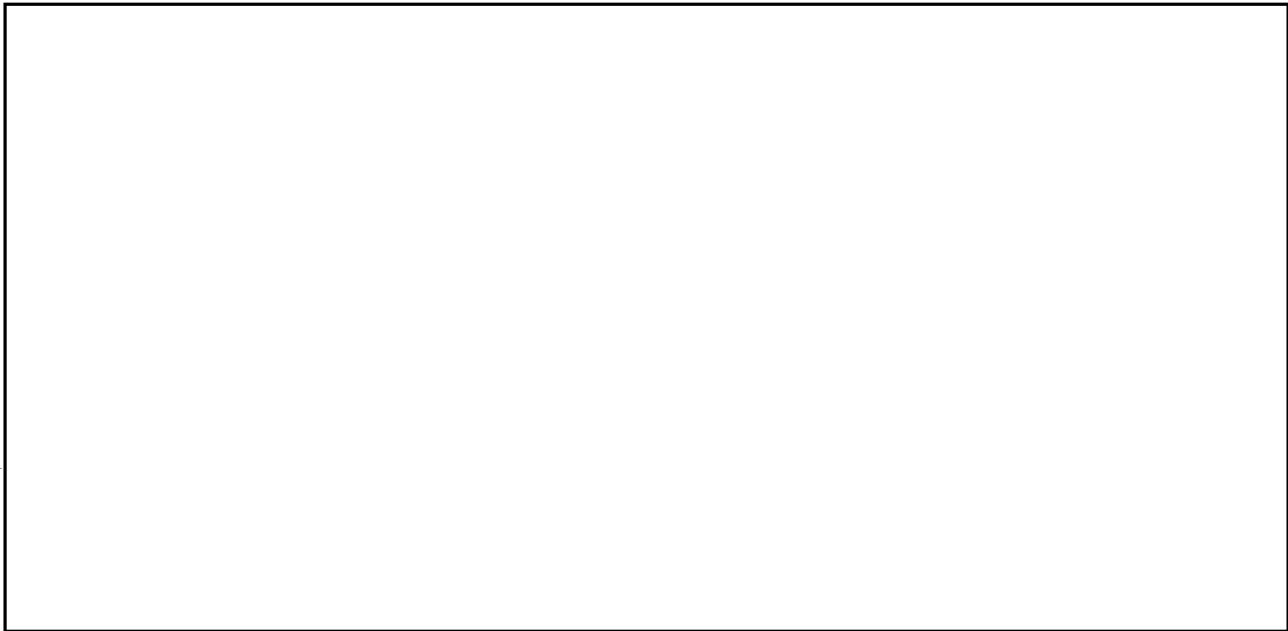
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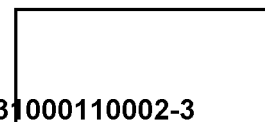
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LEBANON: Israeli Raid

Israeli ground forces supported by artillery crossed the Litani River last night and attacked two Palestinian bases in southeastern Lebanon. The raid apparently lasted only a few hours; Israeli spokesmen announced early this morning that units involved in the attack had already been withdrawn.

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Press accounts indicate that Palestinian artillery responded to the raid by firing on nearby Christian-held towns. Some areas of northern Israel apparently are alerted to possible terrorist retaliation.

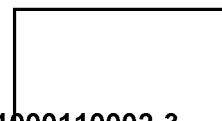
The raid, the second this week, was the first ground incursion by Israeli forces since the large-scale invasion of southern Lebanon last spring. It also marked the first time Israeli ground forces have crossed the Litani River from northern Israel. The Israeli action follows two terrorist incidents earlier this week.

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The attack came as the UN Security Council is debating the renewal of the mandate for UNIFIL, the UN's peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon. The current mandate expires tonight.

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ITALY: Communist Attack on Government

The directorate of the Italian Communist Party yesterday issued its harshest attack yet on the Andreotti government.

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The statement yesterday clearly reflects Communist chief Berlinguer's conviction that the present arrangement is hurting the party and could erode its electoral base if allowed to continue.

In their statement the Communists accused the Christian Democrats of reneging on their agreement to consult the party on major government policies in exchange for its parliamentary support. The Communists also claimed to see a conservative resurgence in the Christian Democratic Party and were critical of Christian Democratic chief Zaccagnini's consultations with US leaders last week.

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Andreotti has not yet responded to the Communist statement. In the meantime, the continuing series of consultations preceding formal parliamentary debate on Andreotti's economic plan, now under way between the government, the parties and the labor unions, should produce reactions to the Communist move and help determine the future of the government.

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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

Romania-USSR

Romanian Foreign Minister Andrei will make an official visit to the USSR at the end of the month, according to simultaneous announcements in Moscow and Bucharest last night.

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COMMENT:

Bucharest's willingness to send Andrei to Moscow suggests that the two governments are ready to discuss their differences, including Romania's reluctance to accept increased defense appropriations and further integration of the Warsaw Pact command. The planned visit may also have played a part in Moscow's failure thus far to attack Bucharest for its criticism of the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea.

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China-Pakistan

Chinese Vice Premier Li Xiennian (Li Hsien-nien) begins a three-day, official visit to Pakistan tomorrow on his way home from Africa. The US Embassy in Islamabad reports today that it was surprised by the announcement Wednesday, noting it had no hints of the trip in its extensive contacts with Chinese and Pakistani officials over the past two weeks. The Embassy surmises that the trip is designed, in part, to allay Pakistani concerns over Indian Foreign Minister Vajpayee's upcoming trip to Beijing (Peking) and to discuss developments in Iran.

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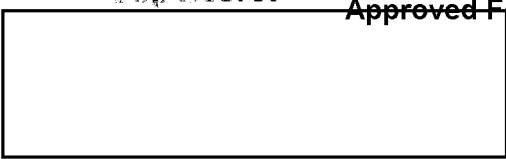
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